



# What is in the Law Cannabinoid Hemp

## Overview

On March 31, 2021, New York State legalized adult-use cannabis (also known as marijuana, or recreational marijuana) by passing the Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA). The legislation created The Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) governed by a Cannabis Control Board to oversee and implement the law (collectively referred to as the “OCM”). OCM will also oversee the State’s existing Cannabinoid Hemp Program.

Individuals who are processing, manufacturing, or selling cannabinoid hemp products in New York State are required to hold a license or permit to do so. The Cannabinoid Hemp Program has issued regulations, which incorporate the Cannabinoid Hemp Program in the MRTA. Below is a summary of the Cannabinoid Hemp Program and changes to the Program in the MRTA.

## Summary of Cannabinoid Hemp Program

The Cannabinoid Hemp Program was created pursuant to [Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2020](#) to implement basic consumer protections and ensure cannabinoid hemp products sold in New York State are properly manufactured, laboratory tested and accurately labeled. The Program requires anyone who is processing, manufacturing, or selling cannabinoid hemp to first obtain a license to do so. Currently, The Office of Cannabis Management is accepting applications and issuing licenses for Cannabinoid Hemp Retailers, Processors and Distributors. Visit our website at <https://cannabis.ny.gov/> for more information.

## Summary of Changes to the Cannabinoid Hemp Program in the MRTA

The MRTA expressly permits the sale of cannabinoid hemp flower and gives the OCM authority to promulgate regulations governing how cannabinoid hemp flower products can be sold.

Further, the new law outlines different retail sale channels depending on how a cannabinoid hemp flower product is sold. Cannabinoid hemp flower products that are sold and clearly labeled or advertised for the purposes of smoking may only be sold in adult-use cannabis retail dispensaries. Cannabinoid hemp flower products that are not marketed for smoking (e.g. in a jar or sealed package) may be sold by any cannabinoid hemp retail licensee, pursuant to forthcoming regulations.

Those interested in growing hemp may find more information on the [New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets \(AGM\) web page](#).

## Contact Us

For additional information about the current Cannabinoid Hemp Program please visit our website or contact us e-mail or phone number listed below.

**E-mail:** Hemp@ocm.ny.gov  
**Phone:** 1-888-OCM-5151 (1-888-626-5151)  
**Website:** <https://cannabis.ny.gov>

You may also sign-up for email updates from the Office at the following link: [Office of Cannabis Management Updates](#).